

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 EB-07 COME-00 INR-07 SS-15

NSC-05 ERDE-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00

OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00

FRB-03 /109 W

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O P 271230Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1972

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0533

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OPEC

SUBJ: OPEC SUMMIT ALGIERS

REF: ALGIERS 0411; STATE 043604

1. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE LOCAL
SPECULATION THAT OPEC SUMMIT ALGIERS MAY NOT BE HELD
BECAUSE CERTAIN CHIEFS OF STATE, NOTABLY FAYSAL, GOWON,
AND PRESIDENT SUHARTO, ARE REPORTEDLY NOT COMING, WE
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INFORMED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT PETROLEUM MINISTERS

ARE EXPECTED TO START DISCUSSIONS MARCH 1 AND THAT SUMMIT
WILL IN FACT TAKE PLACE MARCH 4, 5 AND 6. FOREIGN
MINISTRY AND PRESIDENTIAL PROTOCOL COMPLETELY ENgrossed
IN PREPARATIONS FOR SUMMIT. FROM WHAT WE HAVE BEEN
TOLD BY OPEC AMBASSADORS ARRANGEMENTS WILL PROBABLY
LEAVE MUCH TO BE DESIRED AS FAR AS SOME CHIEFS OF
STATE ARE CONCERNED.

2. ONE WELL-PLACED OPEC AMBASSADOR REPORTS ALGERIANS
VERY UPSET BY FAYSAL'S REFUSAL TO COME. HE CONFIRMS
THAT BOUTEFLIKA WAS SENT TO RIYADH TO TRY CHANGE
FAYSAL'S MIND AND SAYS ALGERIANS GAVE FAYSAL ASSURANCES
HE WOULD NOT BE PUT IN CORNER HERE, I.E., THAT
ALGERIANS WOULD NOT TRY GET SUMMIT TO ADOPT SERIES
"PROGRESSIVE" RESOLUTIONS ALONG LINES DAKAR COMMODITY
CONFERENCE. ALGERIANS CONVINCED FAYSAL'S ATTITUDE IS
RESULT AMERICAN PRESSURE, BUT SOURCE SPECULATES THAT
FRICTION BETWEEN SAUDI MINPET YAMANI AND HIS IRANIAN
COLLEAGUE AMOUZEGAR AT LAST OPEC MEETING ALGIERS WAS
REFLECTION BASIC DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN FAYSAL AND SHAH
AND FORMER MAY NOT WISH ATTEND MEETING WITH LATTER AT
THIS TIME.

3. SOURCE ALSO SAYS YAMANI HAS MADE HIMSELF THOROUGHLY
UNPOPULAR WITH OTHER OPEC MINISTERS BY STATEMENTS
ATTRIBUTED TO HIM AFTER OPEC MINISTERIAL MEETING HERE
TO EFFECT SAUDIS INTERESTED IN LOWERING OIL PRICES. YAMANI
HAD MADE NO SUCH REMARKS DURING OPEC MEETING AND HAD
GONE ALONG WITH CONSENSUS OTHER MINISTERS ON HOLDING LINE.
TO DISAGREE WITH THEM PUBLICLY WHEN HE HAD NOT DONE
SO PRIVATELY WAS CONSIDERED BAD FORM.

4. COMMENT: GIVEN BOUMEDIENE'S APPARENT BELIEF,
EXPRESSED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER IN VARIOUS CONVERSATIONS,
THAT FAYSAL IS OUR CLIENT, IT IS PROBABLY INEVITABLE
THAT ALGERIANS ATTRIBUTE HIS UNWILLINGNESS TO COME
HERE TO PRESSURE FROM US. THERE IS LITTLE WE CAN DO
TO CHANGE THIS BELIEF, BUT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF
SAUDIS THEMSELVES COULD DO SOMETHING TO DISABUSE
ALGERIANS.

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